Wallingford-Swarthmore Schools

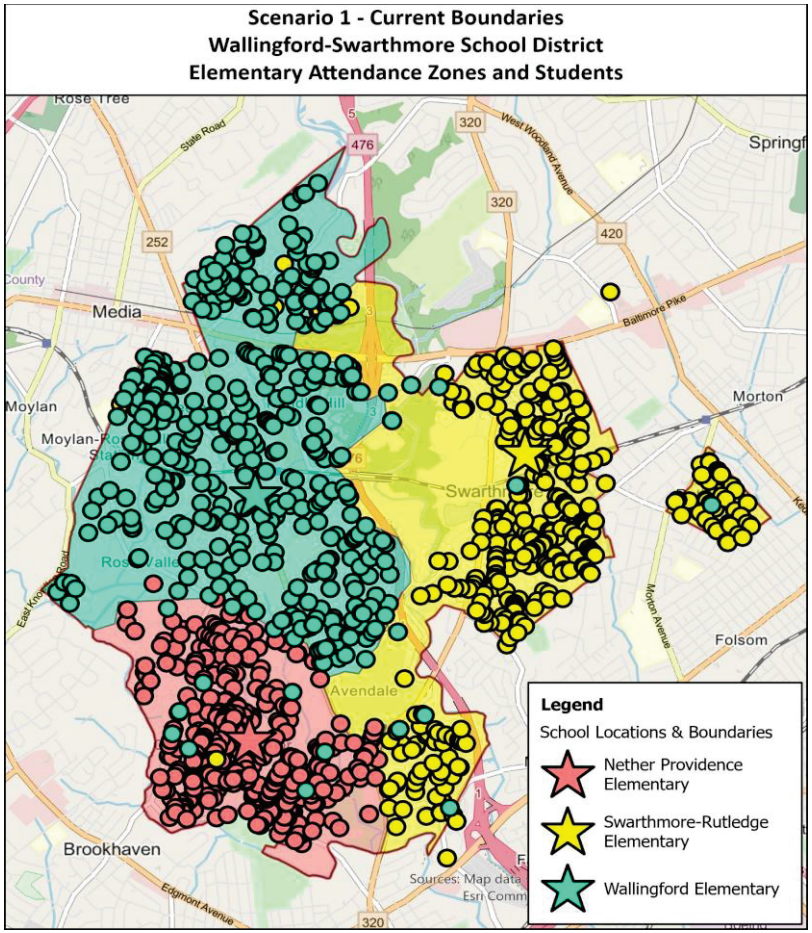
Demographic Study

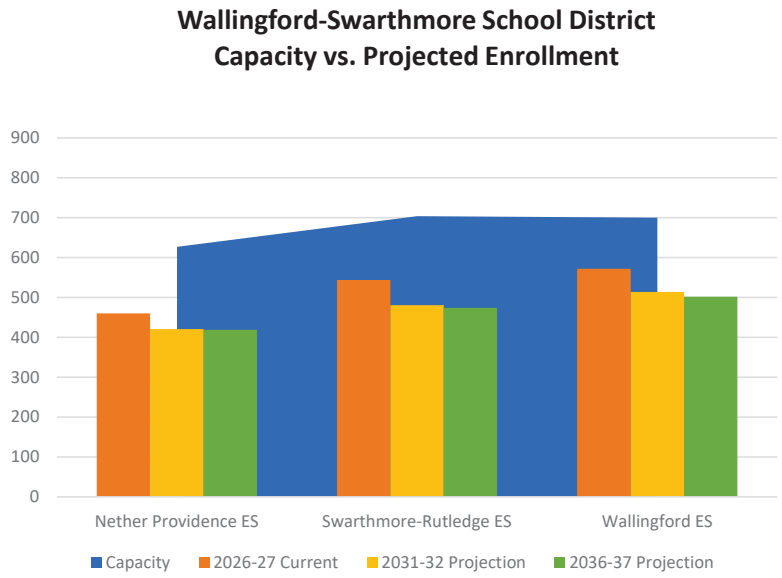
November 17, 2026

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Demographic Study

- Enrollment Projections
- Capacity
- Attendance Boundaries
- Potential Redistricting

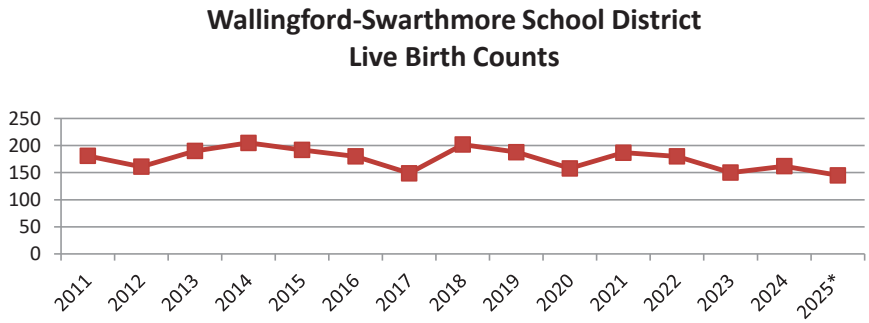


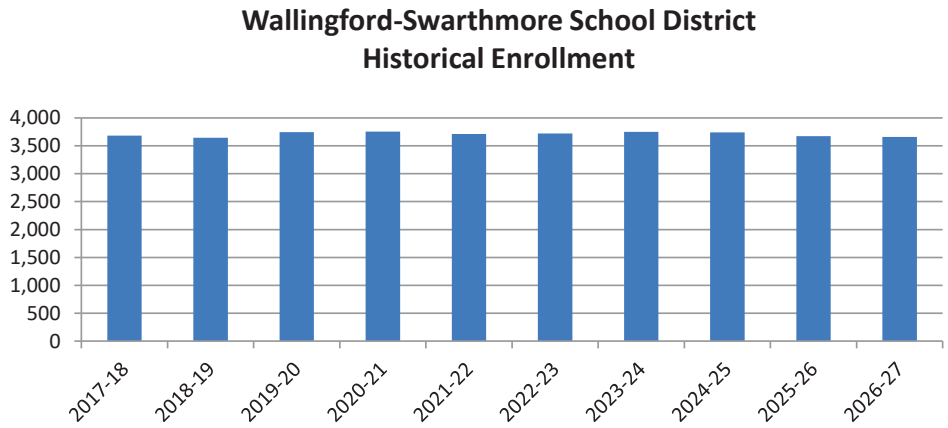


FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Enrollment Projections

- Historical Enrollment
- Birth Data
- Population Estimates
- Housing Data
- Other Variables





FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Historical Enrollment – decrease of 23 students (<1%) over last 10 years

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Historical Enrollment

Grade	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	236	209	262	235	217	215	219	224	213	202
1	273	278	260	292	257	274	260	266	263	265
2	279	275	281	251	302	272	282	265	277	268
3	295	289	291	288	263	317	293	284	265	284
4	253	295	293	287	287	270	324	305	287	268
5	294	261	300	292	290	284	273	324	298	289
6	285	292	262	315	306	300	290	289	321	307
7	284	292	299	260	309	307	301	294	294	320
8	312	280	305	293	255	310	302	299	286	285
9	334	319	285	310	315	268	320	298	293	279
10	257	329	324	280	306	308	269	317	298	291
11	275	251	330	323	274	304	305	263	308	295
12	305	274	255	330	328	291	311	310	270	306
K - 12 Total	3,682	3,644	3,747	3,756	3,709	3,720	3,749	3,738	3,673	3,659

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Historical Enrollment

K-5 – decrease of 54 students

6-8 – increase of 31 students

9-12 – no change

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Historical Enrollment by Grade Group

Grade	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K - 5	1,630	1,607	1,687	1,645	1,616	1,632	1,651	1,668	1,603	1,576
6 - 8	881	864	866	868	870	917	893	882	901	912
9 - 12	1,171	1,173	1,194	1,243	1,223	1,171	1,205	1,188	1,169	1,171
K - 12 Total	3,682	3,644	3,747	3,756	3,709	3,720	3,749	3,738	3,673	3,659

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Non-Public Enrollment fairly consistent

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Non-Public School Enrollment

Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
K	7	15	3	11	5	10
1	11	4	7	3	3	2
2	5	8	4	8	8	2
3	9	7	8	4	12	8
4	12	9	5	11	7	9
5	9	14	9	8	14	6
6	8	18	11	9	14	8
7	1	10	14	13	10	19
8	12	16	5	15	14	8
9	6	12	15	15	15	12
10	8	10	7	13	15	16
11	6	7	8	5	8	9
12	6	11	4	5	7	8
K - 12 Total	100	141	100	120	132	117

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

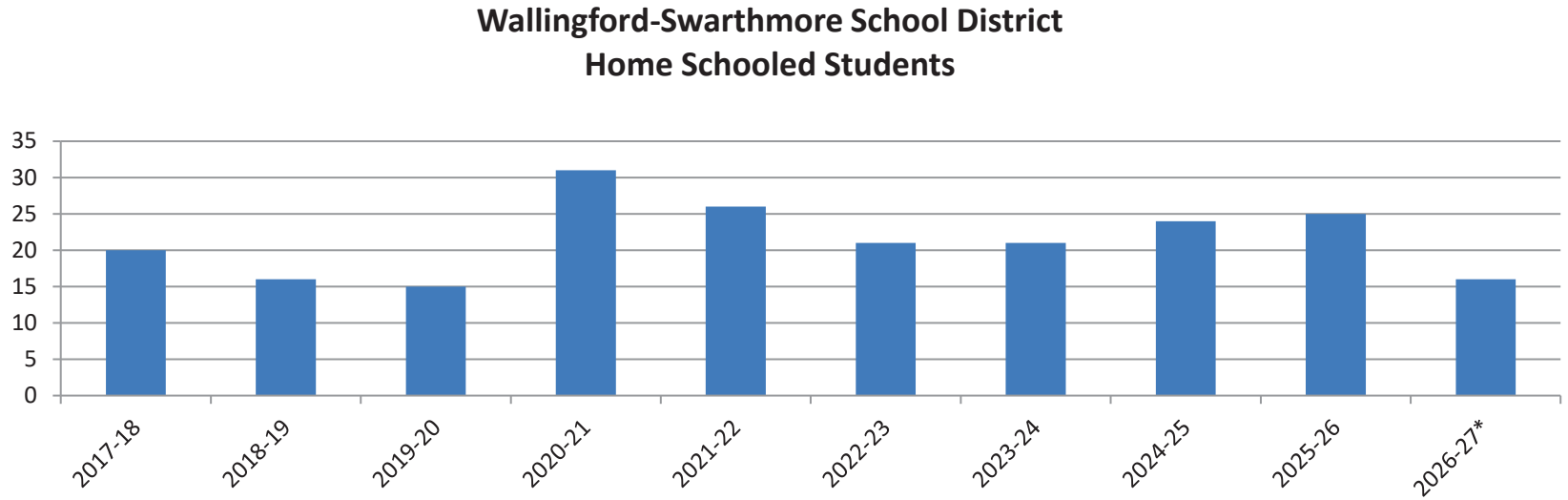
Home-School Enrollment peaked in 2020-21. Has since declined.

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Home Schooled Students

Grade	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27*
K-12	20	16	15	31	26	21	21	24	25	16

Source: Washington Post https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/interactive/2023/homeschooling-growth-data-by-district/; Wallingford-Swarthmore School District

* as of 8/21/26



FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Birth Counts – indicator of future K, peaked in 2014 at 205. More recent years, between 145 & 187.

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Live Birth Counts
2011-2025

Year	Nether Providence Twp.	Rose Valley Borough	Rutledge Borough	Swarthmore Borough	Total
2011	128	6	4	43	**181**
2012	110	8	4	39	**161**
2013	126	6	10	48	**190**
2014	132	11	10	52	**205**
2015	131	3	6	52	**192**
2016	116	7	9	48	**180**
2017	107	8	7	27	**149**
2018	152	13	10	27	**202**
2019	141	8	3	36	**188**
2020	107	4	5	42	**158**
2021	135	9	10	33	**187**
2022	128	10	9	33	**180**
2023	106	5	7	32	**150**
2024	106	7	8	41	**162**
2025*	99	8	17	21	**145**

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Division of Health Informatics

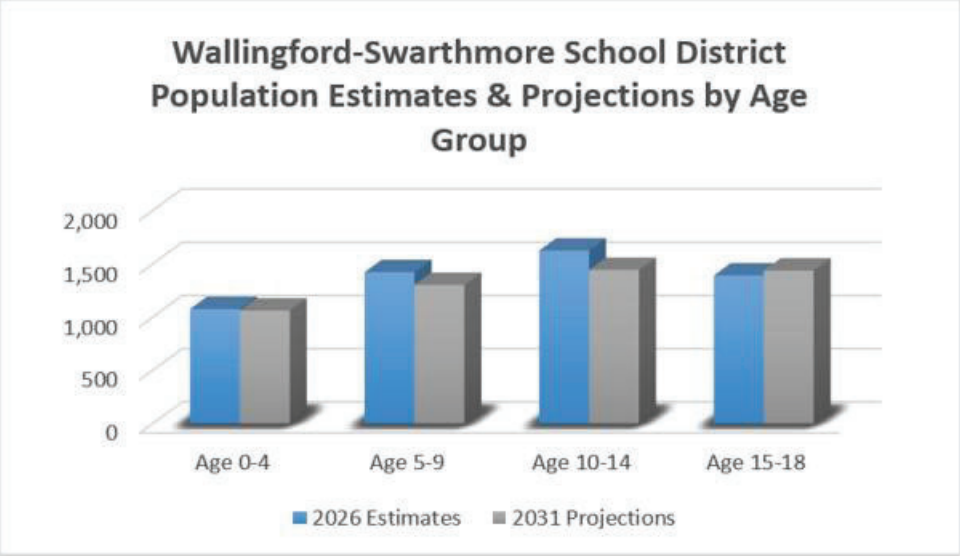
*preliminary data subject to change

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Population Estimates– Total population projected to decrease slightly. Age 0-18 population projected to decrease by 5%.

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District	2026 Estimates	2031 Projections	Change 2026-31	Change 2026-31 (%)
Total Population	22,881	22,749	-132	-0.6%
Age 0-4	1,076	1,062	-14	-1.3%
Age 5-9	1,423	1,302	-121	-8.5%
Age 10-14	1,626	1,443	-183	-11.3%
Age 15-18	1,392	1,438	46	3.3%
Total Age 0-18	5,517	5,245	-272	-4.9%
Median Age	41.5	42.0	0.5	1.2%

Source: Esri



FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Housing Development

- 110 Park – 31 condo units (completed in 2025)
- Wallingford Mews – 11 total units (duplex)
- Harvey Road – 2-3 lots for single-family homes

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Survival Ratios – measure the change grade to grade, year by year and in/out migration

from	to	birth -> K	K->1	1->2	2->3	3->4	4->5
2017	2018	110.0%	117.8%	100.7%	103.6%	100.0%	103.2%
2018	2019	127.8%	124.4%	101.1%	105.8%	101.4%	101.7%
2019	2020	122.4%	111.5%	96.5%	102.5%	98.6%	99.7%
2020	2021	120.6%	109.4%	103.4%	104.8%	99.7%	101.0%
2021	2022	144.3%	126.3%	105.8%	105.0%	102.7%	99.0%
2022	2023	108.4%	120.9%	102.9%	107.7%	102.2%	101.1%
2023	2024	119.1%	121.5%	101.9%	100.7%	104.1%	100.0%
2024	2025	134.8%	117.4%	104.1%	100.0%	101.1%	97.7%
2025	2026	108.0%	124.4%	101.9%	102.5%	101.1%	100.7%
	average	121.72%	119.277%	102.05%	103.6%	101.20%	100.4%
	standard deviation	11.683%	5.520%	2.459%	2.330%	1.566%	1.504%

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Survival Ratios – Middle School & High School – very consistent

from	to	5->6	6->7	7->8	8->9	9->10	10->11	11->12
2017	2018	99.3%	102.5%	98.6%	102.2%	98.5%	97.7%	99.6%
2018	2019	100.4%	102.4%	104.5%	101.8%	101.6%	100.3%	101.6%
2019	2020	105.0%	99.2%	98.0%	101.6%	98.2%	99.7%	100.0%
2020	2021	104.8%	98.1%	98.1%	107.5%	98.7%	97.9%	101.5%
2021	2022	103.4%	100.3%	100.3%	105.1%	97.8%	99.3%	106.2%
2022	2023	102.1%	100.3%	98.4%	103.2%	100.4%	99.0%	102.3%
2023	2024	105.9%	101.4%	99.3%	98.7%	99.1%	97.8%	101.6%
2024	2025	99.1%	101.7%	97.3%	98.0%	100.0%	97.2%	102.7%
2025	2026	103.0%	99.7%	96.9%	97.6%	99.3%	99.0%	99.4%
	average	102.6%	100.6%	99.0%	101.747%	99.284%	98.646%	101.660%
	standard deviation	2.367%	1.401%	2.140%	3.127%	1.118%	1.009%	1.951%

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Enrollment Projections – Half-Day K – decrease of 397 students (11%)

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Projected Enrollment - Half Day K Model

Grade	2026-27 Actual	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37
K	**202**	218	182	196	176	191	191	191	191	191	191
1	**265**	243	264	219	237	212	231	231	231	231	231
2	**268**	272	250	270	226	243	217	237	237	237	237
3	**284**	274	278	255	276	229	249	222	242	242	242
4	**268**	290	278	283	260	280	235	252	226	246	246
5	**289**	269	291	280	284	261	281	235	253	227	248
6	**307**	297	277	299	290	295	272	293	244	264	236
7	**320**	310	300	279	302	293	298	275	296	246	266
8	**285**	315	305	295	275	297	288	293	270	291	242
9	**279**	283	313	303	293	273	295	287	291	269	289
10	**291**	277	281	310	300	291	271	293	284	289	266
11	**295**	286	272	277	305	296	286	266	288	280	284
12	**306**	300	291	277	281	310	300	291	271	293	284
K - 12 Total	**3,659**	3,634	3,582	3,543	3,505	3,471	3,414	3,366	3,324	3,306	3,262

Source: FutureThink

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Projections by Grade Group

- K-5 – decrease of 181 students
- 6-8 – decrease of 168 students
- 9-12 – decrease of 48 students

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Projected Enrollment by Grade Group

Grade	2026-27 Actual	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37
K - 5	**1,576**	1,566	1,543	1,503	1,459	1,416	1,404	1,368	1,380	1,374	1,395
6 - 8	**912**	922	882	873	867	885	858	861	810	801	744
9 - 12	**1,171**	1,146	1,157	1,167	1,179	1,170	1,152	1,137	1,134	1,131	1,123
K - 12 Total	**3,659**	3,634	3,582	3,543	3,505	3,471	3,414	3,366	3,324	3,306	3,262

Source: FutureThink

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Full-Day K – shift of students from first grade to K

- More students enter in K
- Still an increase from K>1, but less so
- Impossible to anticipate influx due to Full-Day K
- Some districts have seen no significant increase

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Projected Enrollment - Full Day K Model

Grade	2026-27 Actual	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37
K	**202**	238	197	213	191	208	208	208	208	208	208
1	**265**	223	249	202	222	195	214	214	214	214	214

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Projected Enrollment - Half Day K Model

Grade	2026-27 Actual	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	2035-36	2036-37
K	**202**	218	182	196	176	191	191	191	191	191	191
1	**265**	243	264	219	237	212	231	231	231	231	231

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Capacity Study

- Number of "regular" classrooms x class size
- Do NOT include art, music, special ed, labs, etc.
- Ideal capacity is between 85% and 90%

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Elementary School Capacity (Half-Day K)

School	# of K-2 CR	Max Class Size	# of 3-5 CR	Class Size	Capacity
Nether Providence ES	10	23	13	27	627
Swarthmore-Rutledge ES	11	23	15	27	704
Wallingford ES	12	23	14	27	700
Total	**33**		**42**		**2,031**

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, FutureThink

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Capacity Study – Full Day K

- Move to full day K, capacity goes down by 46 at each school (4 classes of half day K become 2 classes of full day K)

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Elementary School Capacity (Full-Day K)

School	# of K-2 CR	Max Class Size	# of 3-5 CR	Class Size	Capacity
Nether Providence ES	10	23	13	27	581
Swarthmore-Rutledge ES	11	23	15	27	658
Wallingford ES	12	23	14	27	654
Total	**33**		**42**		**1,893**

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, FutureThink

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

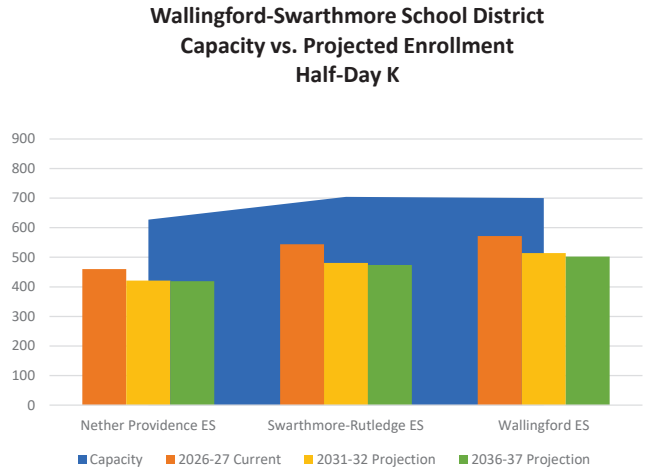
Capacity – Half Day K

- The utilization ranges between 73% and 82% currently with half-day K.
- As enrollment declines, utilization declines as well

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Capacity vs. Current & Projected Enrollment - Half-Day K

School	Capacity	2026-27 Current	Utilization	2031-32 Projection	Utilization	2036-37 Projection	Utilization
Nether Providence ES	627	460	73%	421	67%	419	67%
Swarthmore-Rutledge ES	704	544	77%	481	68%	474	67%
Wallingford ES	700	572	82%	514	73%	502	72%
Total	**2,031**	**1,576**	**78%**	**1,416**	**70%**	**1,395**	**69%**

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, FutureThink



FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

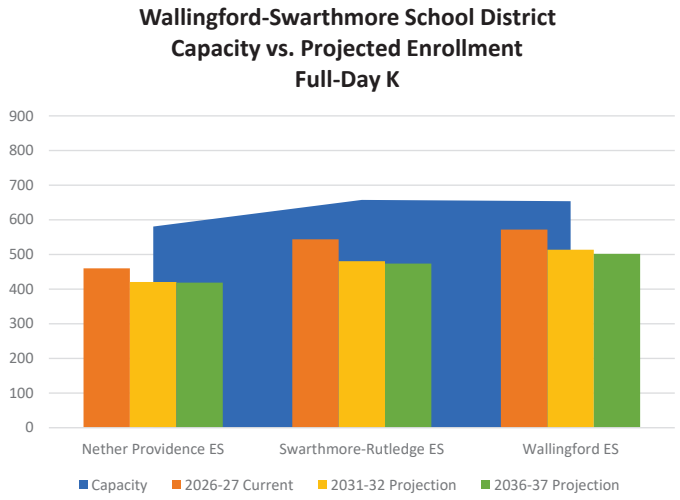
Capacity – Full Day K

- The utilization would be between 79% and 87% currently with full day K.

Wallingford-Swarthmore School District
Capacity vs. Current & Projected Enrollment - Full-Day K

School	Capacity	2026-27 Current	Utilization	2031-32 Projection	Utilization	2036-37 Projection	Utilization
Nether Providence ES	581	460	79%	421	72%	419	72%
Swarthmore-Rutledge ES	658	544	83%	481	73%	474	72%
Wallingford ES	654	572	87%	514	79%	502	77%
Total	**1,893**	**1,576**	**83%**	**1,416**	**75%**	**1,395**	**74%**

Source: Wallingford-Swarthmore School District, FutureThink

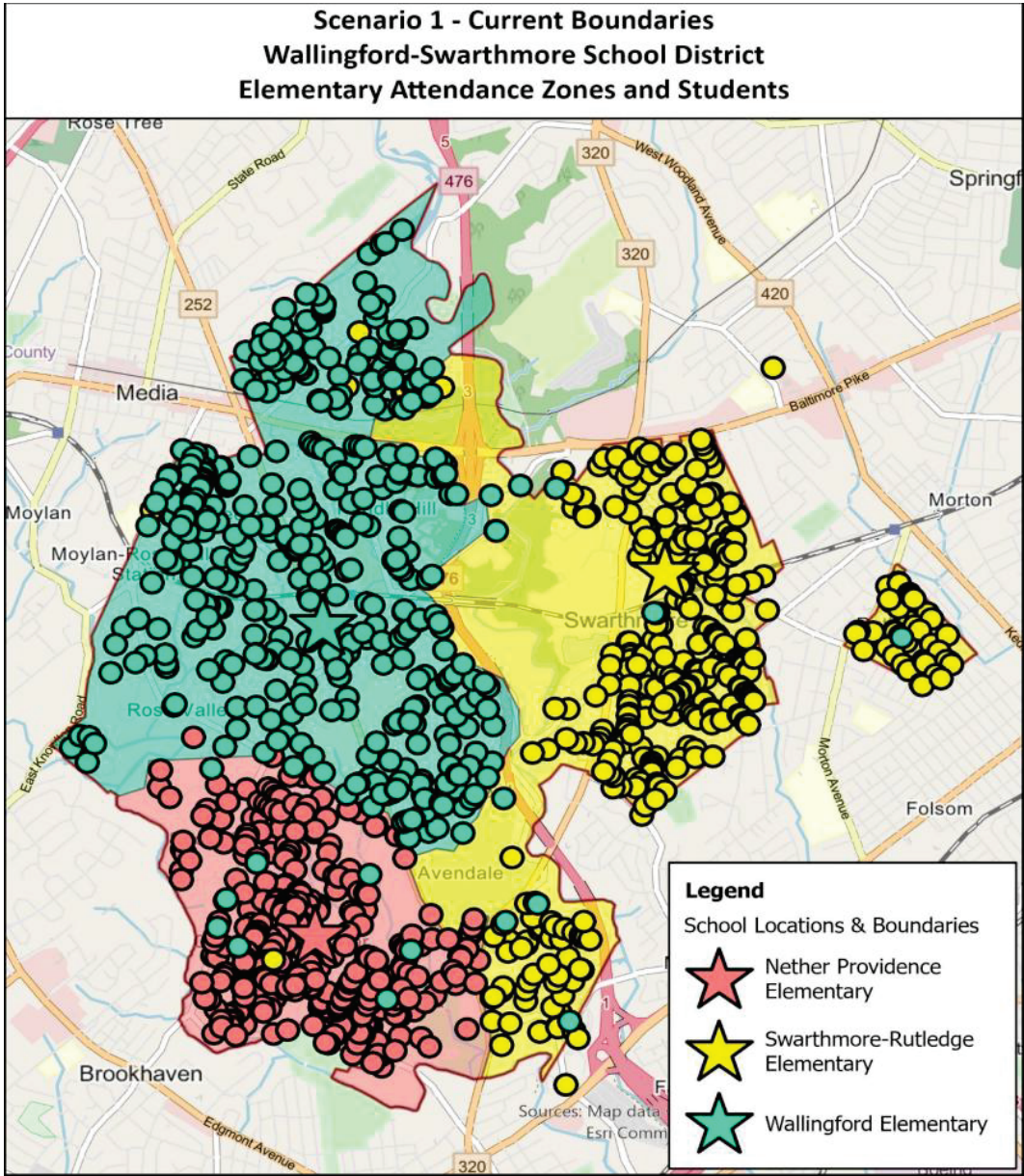


FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Current Boundaries

Show where students live in relation to the schools & attendance boundaries.

Dots = students
Stars = schools
Boundaries = color-coded



Current Conditions

Current Capacity

Scenario 1 - Current Conditions - Student Enrollment Information					
	K-5 In-District	K-5 Out-of-District	K-5 Total	Capacity	% Capacity
Nether Providence	460	0	460	581	79.2%
Swarthmore-Rutledge	518	25	543	658	82.5%
Wallingford	570	2	572	654	87.5%

Students are based on the school of attendance as listed in the student database as of 09-11-2026

Current Travel Times & Distances

Scenario 1 - Current Conditions - Travel Information				
	Avg. Drive Time (mins)	Max. Drive Time (mins)	Avg. Drive Distance (mi)	Max. Drive Distance (mi)
Nether Providence	1.9	4.5	0.6	1.4
Swarthmore-Rutledge	4	8.1	1.2	3
Wallingford	3.2	6.4	1.1	2.5

Drive Times and Distances are based students living in each attendance zones, regardless of their actual school of attendance. Out-of-District students are excluded due to skewing.

Implement Full Day/Better Balance Enrollment

1. Developed 3 additional scenarios
2. Keep neighborhoods together
3. Respect geographic restrictions
4. Perform drive-time analysis

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Scenario Progression

1. Prioritize optimum travel time, sending students to closest school (Scenario 2)

2. Modify previous scenario to better balance enrollment (Scenario 3)

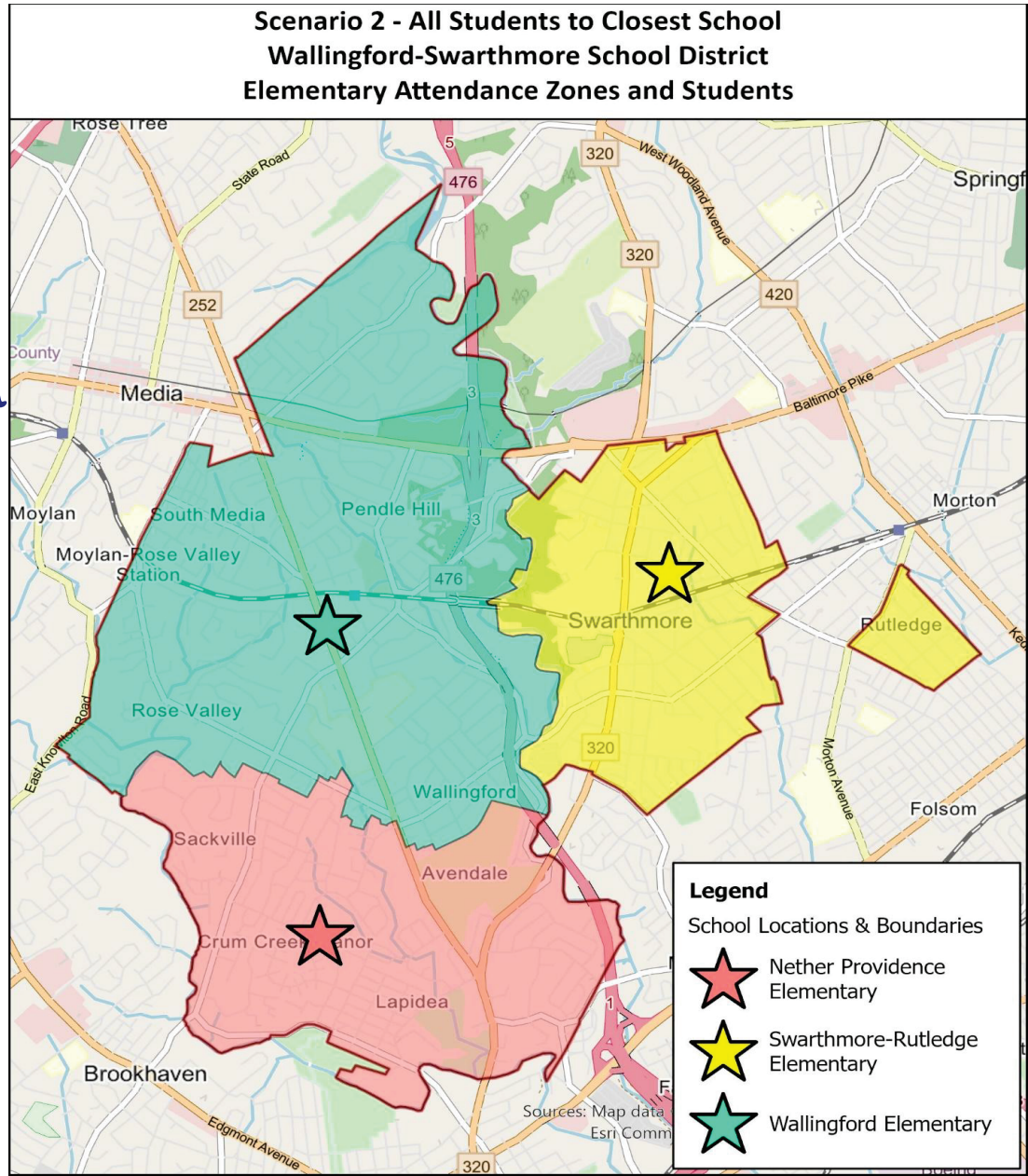
3. Modify previous scenario to make minimize student movement & better balance enrollment. (Scenario 4)

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Scenario 2

NPS takes on southern portion that was SRS

WES takes on northern Portion that was SRS



Boundary Adjustment Criteria – Scenario 2

- Students to closest school
- No schools over capacity
- Minimal changes to drive time and distance

Scenario 2 - All Students to Closest School - Student Enrollment Information					
	K-5 In-District	K-5 Out-of-District	K-5 Total	Capacity	% Capacity
Nether Providence	533	0	533	581	91.7%
Swarthmore-Rutledge	436	25	461	658	70.1%
Wallingford	579	2	581	654	88.8%

Students are based on their location within the attendance zone they live in. Out-of-District students will remain at their current schools.

Scenario 2 - All Students to Closest School - Travel Information								
	Avg. Drive Time (mins)	Max. Drive Time (mins)	Change: Avg. Drive Time	Change: Max Drive Time	Avg. Drive Distance (mi)	Max. Drive Distance (mi)	Change: Avg. Drive Distance	Change: Max. Drive Distance
Nether Providence	2.2	4.9	0.3	0.4	0.7	1.7	0.1	0.3
Swarthmore-Rutledge	3.4	5.9	-0.6	-2.2	0.9	1.8	-0.3	-1.2
Wallingford	3.2	6.4	0	0	1.1	2.5	0	0

Drive Times and Distances are based students living in each attendance zones, regardless of their actual school of attendance. Out-of-District students are excluded due to skewing.

Detailed Student Movement Matrix – Scenario 2

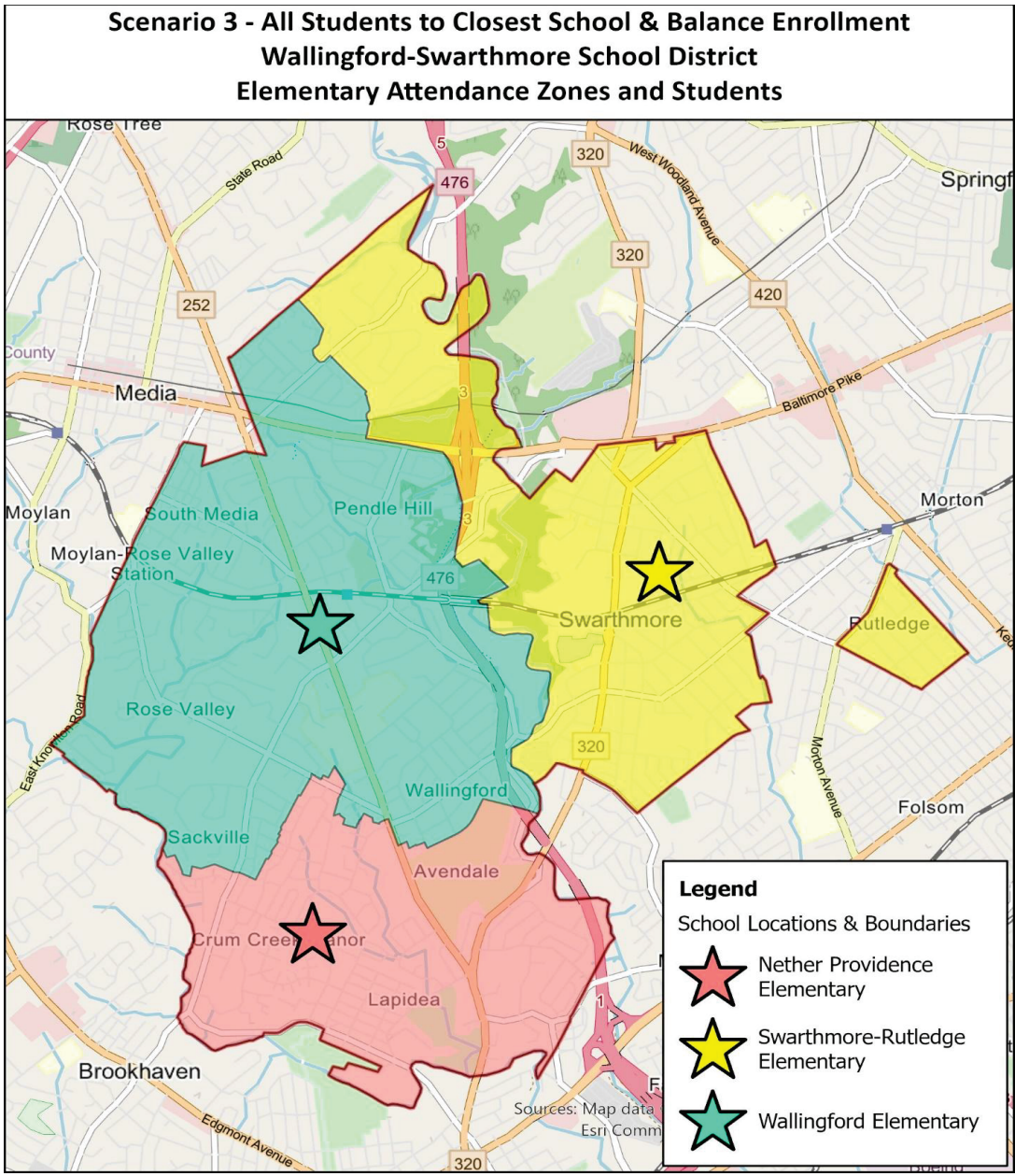
- Rows: Students coming into a school and where from.
- Columns: Students leaving school and where to.
- Green cells: Students remaining at a school.

Scenario 2 - Students to Closest School					
	NPE	**SRS**	**WES**	**Total Students In**	**Net Student Gains/Losses**
NPE	449	72	12	**84**	**73**
SRS	0	458	3	**3**	**-82**
WES	11	13	557	**24**	**9**
Total Students Out	**11**	**85**	**15**	**111**	<-- Total students Changing Schools

Scenario 3

NPS takes on southern portion that was SRS

SRS takes on northern Portion that was WES



Boundary Adjustment Criteria – Scenario 3

- Modify 2nd scenario – ALL students to closest school
- Balance enrollment – Capacities between 82% & 85%
- Minimal change to drive times and distances

Scenario 3 - Closest School/Balance Enrollment - Student Enrollment Information					
	K-5 In-District	K-5 Out-of-District	K-5 Total	Capacity	% Capacity
Nether Providence	476	0	476	581	81.9%
Swarthmore-Rutledge	516	25	541	658	82.2%
Wallingford	556	2	558	654	85.3%

Students are based on their location within the attendance zone they live in. Out-of-District students will remain at their current schools.

Scenario 3 - Closest School/Balance Enrollment - Travel Information								
	Avg. Drive Time (mins)	Max. Drive Time (mins)	Change: Avg. Drive Time	Change: Max Drive Time	Avg. Drive Distance (mi)	Max. Drive Distance (mi)	Change: Avg. Drive Distance	Change: Max. Drive Distance
Nether Providence	2.1	4.9	0.2	0.4	0.7	1.7	0.1	0.3
Swarthmore-Rutledge	4.1	9.7	0.1	1.6	1.2	3.5	0	0.5
Wallingford	3	6	-0.2	-0.4	1	2.5	-0.1	0

Drive Times and Distances are based students living in each attendance zones, regardless of their actual school of attendance. Out-of-District students are excluded due to skewing.

Detailed Student Movement Matrix – Scenario 3

- Rows: Students coming into a school and where from.
- Columns: Students leaving school and where to.
- Green cells: Students remaining at a school.

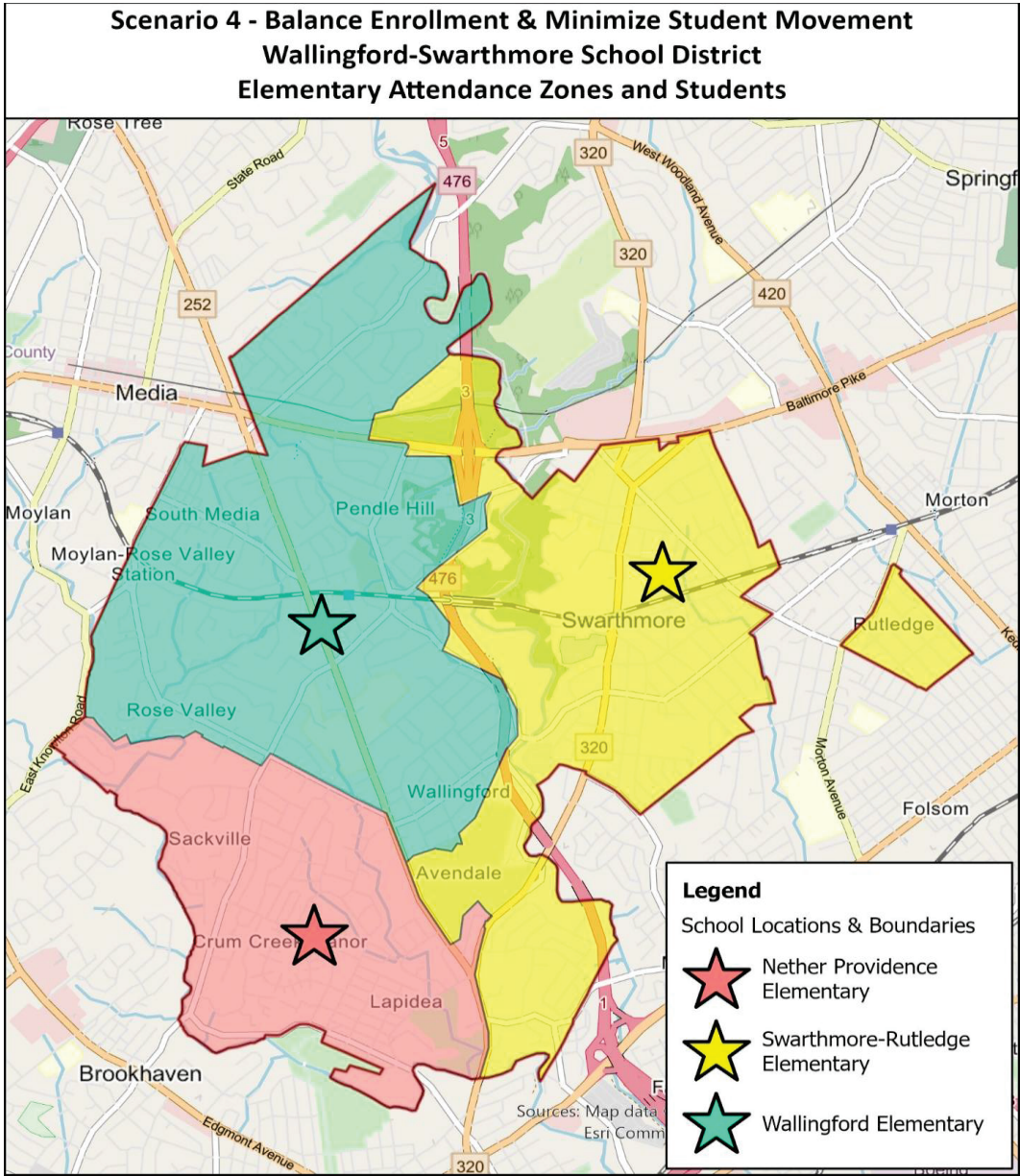
Scenario 3 - Students to Closest School & Balance Enrollment					
	NPE	SRS	WES	Total Students In	Net Student Gains/Losses
NPE	393	72	11	83	16
SRS	0	468	73	73	-2
WES	67	3	488	70	-14
Total Students Out	67	75	84	226	<-- Total students Changing Schools

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Scenario 4

NPS takes on southern portion that was WES

Slight shift between SRS and WES



Boundary Adjustment Criteria – Scenario 4

- Balance enrollment – all students to closest school
- Move the least amount of students
- Minimal changes to travel times and distances

Scenario 4 - Balance Enrollment/Minimal Student Movement - Student Enrollment Information					
	K-5 In-District	K-5 Out-of-District	K-5 Total	Capacity	% Capacity
Nether Providence	483	0	483	581	83.1%
Swarthmore-Rutledge	533	25	558	658	84.8%
Wallingford	532	2	534	654	81.7%

Students in this table are based on their location within the attendance zone they live in. Out-of-District students will remain at their current schools.

Scenario 4 - Closest School/Balance Enrollment - Travel Information								
	Avg. Drive Time (mins)	Max. Drive Time (mins)	Change: Avg. Drive Time	Change: Max Drive Time	Avg. Drive Distance (mi)	Max. Drive Distance (mi)	Change: Avg. Drive Distance	Change: Max. Drive Distance
Nether Providence	2	7.3	0.1	2.8	0.6	3.1	0	1.7
Swarthmore-Rutledge	4	8.1	0	0	1.2	3	0	0
Wallingford	3.1	6.4	-0.1	0	1.1	2.4	0	-0.1

Drive Times and Distances are based students living in each attendance zones, regardless of their actual school of attendance. Out-of-District students are excluded due to skewing.

Detailed Student Movement Matrix – Scenario 4

- Rows: Students coming into a school and where from.
- Columns: Students leaving school and where to.
- Green cells: Students remaining at a school.

Scenario 4 - Balance Enrollment & Minimize Student Movement					
	NPE	SRS	WES	Total Students In	Net Student Gains/Losses
NPE	460	1	22	23	23
SRS	0	533	25	25	15
WES	0	9	525	9	-38
Total Students Out	0	10	47	57	<-- Total students Changing Schools

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER

Recommendations

- If redistricting is pursued, use Scenario 4
- Establish a Redistricting Committee
  - Continue to monitor enrollment & where students live
  - Identify staffing and sections at each school
  - Modify transportation & bussing
  - Develop communications plan

FutureThink
PLAN TO EMPOWER